

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 GAC-01 T-03

RSR-01 /121 W

----- 089068

R 190950 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2449

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENGR, JA, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRC AND SOVIET EXCHANGES OVER TYUMEN PROJECT

SUMMARY: PRC HAS REACTED TO PROGRESS ON JAPAN- SOVIET TYIMEN PIPELINE PROJECT WITH STRONG STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD HARBOR BITTER FEELINGS AGAINST JAPAN IF PROJECT GOES FORWARD.

TASS IN TURN PROMPTLY CASTIGATED CHINESE FOR MEDDLING IN INTERNAL JAPANESE AFFAIRS. FONOFF SOURCE SAYS THAT PRC STATEMENT WILL NOT AFFECT FONOFF'S POSITIVE STANCE ON TYUMEN PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. INCREASINGLY RAPID PROGRESS TOWARD REALIZATION OF JAPAN- SOVIET COOPERATION IN ONE BILLION DOLLAR TYUMEN OIL PIPELINE PROJECT HAS PROMPTED PRC TO MAKE DIRECT STATEMENT OPENLY CRITICAL OF PROPOSED COOPERATION. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH YOMIURI CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING ON MARCH 11, LIAO CHENG- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHIN, HEAD OF CHINA- JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, SAID THAT REALIZATION OF THE TYUMEN PIPELINE WILL MEAN THAT FUEL WILL BE SUPPLIED TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND TANKS TO INVADE CHINA. CHINA WILL HAVE TO TAKE CONSIDERABLE MEASURES TO COUNTER THIS. WE CAN UNDERSTAND, LIAO ADDED IN INTERVIEW, THAT THE RESOURCES QUESTION IS IMPORTANT FOR JAPAN AND PRC IS NOT OPPOSED TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, JAPAN MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT WE WILL HARBOR " BITTER FEELINGS" TOWARD JAPAN TOO (IF PROJECT GOES FORWARD).

2. MOSCOW WAS QUICK TO REACT TO CHINESE STATEMENT. IN BROADCAST MONITORED BY FBIS LONDON, TASS CORRESPONDENT YURI KONILOV IS QUOTED AS NOTING THAT SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN- SOVIET RELATIONS AROUSES STUBBORN RESISTANCE OF CERTAIN FORCES SEEKING TO SOW DISSENSION AND DISTRUST FOR THEIR OWN SELF SEEKING INTERESTS. FOR INSTANCE, KONILOV CONTINUES, MANY OBSERVERS DREW ATTENTION TO AN UNUSUAL INTERVIEW GIVEN BY LIAO CHENG- CHIN IN PREPARATION FOR A TRIP TO JAPAN (SEE REFTEL). IN THAT INTERVIEW LIAO CHENG- CHIN WAS SPEAKING NOT SO MUCH ABOUT PROSPECTS OF CHINESE- JAPANESE COOPERATION, BUT WAS ATTACKING PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT JAPANESE- SOVIET PROJECTS. LIAO ASSERTED THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROJECTS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE LINKED TO OIL EXTRACTION AND TRANSPORTATION, WOULD EVOKE CHINA'S BITTER FEELINGS AND WOULD EVEN MAKE IT TAKE COUNTERMEASURES. THESE PRC PRONOUNCEMENTS, KONILOV ADDED, ARE KIND OF THREAT TO JAPAN, AND RAISE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER LIAO CHENG- CHIN'S TRIP IS NOT AIMED IN ACTUAL FACT AT INTERFERING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, AND PREVENTING FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF JAPAN- SOVIET RELATIONS. (FULL TEXT OF KONILOV COMMENTS FBIS MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 2310, 05 MAR 1973).

GEM SOURCE IN FONOFF SOVIET AFFAIRS DIV TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 19 THAT FONOFF HAD NOTED CHINESE STATEMENT (AS WELL AS SOVIET STATEMENT). HOWEVER FONOFF NOT " OVERLY CONCERNED" BY PRC STATEMENT, WHICH HE ADDED WOULD NOT LTER FONOFF POSITIVE POSITION ON TYUMEN PROJECT.
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